Lichfield Diocese Prayer Diary: Issue 61

**Our prayers take forwards the ‘SHAPING FOR MISSION’ Deanery focus. As ‘People of Hope’ we remain mindful of the implications of Covid-19, both locally and globally.**

**Sun May 30th:** *(Josephine Butler, Social Reformer, 1906; Joan of Arc, Visionary, 1431; Apolo Kivebulaya, Priest, Evangelist in Central Africa, 1933)* As we follow Christ in the footsteps of St Chad, we pray for the **Tamworth Deanery**; for Rural Dean: Gary Simmons; Assistant Rural Dean: John Grice & Lay Chair: David Litchfield; that the 74,000 people in the Tamworth Deanery encounter a church that is confident in the gospel, knows and loves its communities, and is excited to find God already at work in the world. We pray for a church that reflects the richness and variety of those rural and urban communities; for a church that partners with others seeking the common good, working for justice as people of hope.

**Mon 31st:** *(The Visit of the Blessed Virgin Mary to Elizabeth)* We pray for the **Shaping for Mission** team in Tamworth Deanery and for their facilitator Lindsey Hall; for all in the Deanery to submit to and engage with the challenges and opportunities of this process; we give thanks for the way congregations and buildings have adapted and for where faith has grown and not diminished.

**Tues June 1st**: *(Justin, Martyr at Rome, c.165)*We give thanks for all staff at the Sir Robert Peel Community Hospital; those working on the wards, in therapies, outpatients, the minor injuries unit and the amazing support staff in all their various roles; we give particular thanks for the way that the communities around Tamworth have given support over the last year with generous gifts and invaluable prayer; for the Reverend Hugh Baker (Team Chaplain) and the Reverend Alison Thorp (Chaplaincy Manager) in their continuing ministry to staff and patient

**Wed 2nd:** We pray for all churches in vacancy in Tamworth at the present time, both in the C.of.E and for ecumenical partners too in Tamworth Churches Together; for St. Editha's Church Tamworth in the heart of Tamworth still in vacancy; for a positive response to the Team Vicar post advertised for Stoneydelph and Glascote Heath; for the smaller congregations in towns and countryside for whom  these times can look very uncertain.

**Thur 3rd:***(The Martyrs of Uganda, 1885-7 and 1977)* The fifth Mark of Mission is to strive to safeguard the integrity of creation, and sustain and renew the life of the earth; we give thanks for the recent Diocesan forum on the environment and pray for Steve Hollinghurst, Diocesan Evangelism Enabler - Environmental Focus; for Rich Clarkson and Emma Cooksey and all seeking to assist parishes in responding positively to the challenge of this task.

**Fri 4th:** *(Petroc, Abbot of Padstow, 6th century)* For the 3 church schools and all community schools in the Tamworth Deanery; for rest and refreshment for staff and pupils on half term; for all facing exams and important assessments; for pupil well-being and for all who seek to provide specific support.

**Sat 5th:***(Boniface (Wynfrith) of Crediton, Bishop, Apostle of Germany, Martyr, 754)* for the Regional Bishop of Nordkirche, Bishop Kristina Kühnbaun Schmidt; for Bishop Tilman Jeremias with his oversight of the districts of Mecklenburg and Pomerania and his ministries in matters environmental, social and political; for Melanie Dango and Änne Lange as they sustain global partnerships and anticipate opportunities to meet in person

***For further resources for praying for the worldwide church see the Anglican Cycle of prayer:*** [***https://bit.ly/3anQUWG***](https://bit.ly/3anQUWG)